

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PERP, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON BREZHNEV SPEECH

REF: USUN 1682

1. FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER'S
APRIL 26 NEWS BRIEFING MAY BE USED TO RESPOND TO QUERY
IN REFTEL.

2. (QUOTE) ANSWER: WELL, AS THE PRESIDENT INDICATED
ON THE DISAPPOINTING SIDE OF THAT DECLARATION, THE FACT
THAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD NOT DEVELOP AN ENHANCED RADIA-
TION WEAPON IS NOT AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE AND DOES NOT
INDICATE ANY RECIPROCAL ACTION IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE
AFFECTING WEAPONS SYSTEMS WHICH ARE MEANINGFUL IN THE
CONTEXT OF OUR DECISION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB. I WOULD ALSO
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NOTE THAT THE SOVIET ARMS CONTROLS PROPOSALS MENTIONED
BY PRESIDENT BREZHNEV IN ANTICIPATION OF THE U.N. SPECIAL
SESSION ON DISARMAMENT DON'T SEEM TO ADDRESS THE SUB-
STANTIVE ISSUES THAT WILL BE UNDER DISCUSSION THERE AND
APPEAR DESTINED LARGELY FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

OBTAINING, THERE WERE SOME POSITIVE SIDES TO WHAT HE

HAD TO SAY. HE SPOKE OF A FAVORABLE TREND IN U.S.-SOVIET

RELATIONS. WE SHARE THAT VIEW, AND PARTICULARLY, OF COURSE, WELCOME HIS STATEMENT THAT THROUGH MUTUAL EFFORTS, AND THAT IS TO SAY EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES, A SALT AGREEMENT CAN BE COMPLETED. THE SOVIET ACCESSION TO THE PROTOCOL OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, WHICH IS THE LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE TREATY, IS WELCOME AND, OBVIOUSLY, PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S ASSESSMENT IN A HOPEFUL FASHION ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR CONCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY.

I SIMPLY POINT OUT THAT THOSE ARE ALL ELEMENTS IN THE SPEECH. THE PRESIDENT, OF COURSE, WAS ASKED ABOUT THE NEUTRON QUESTION ITSELF. THAT IS A VIEW WHICH WE HAVE STATED BEFORE AND WOULD STATE AGAIN. (END QUOTE)

VANCE

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